

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4681

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, UR

SUBJ: RED STAR DRAGS ITS FEET ON DETENTE

1. WE HAVE FOR SOME TIME OBSERVED WITH INTEREST THAT RED STAR, DEFENSE MINISTRY DAILY, HAS HELD BACK FROM CARRYING FEATURE ARTICLES AND COMMENTARIES FAVORABLE TO IMPROVED U. S.- SOVIET RELATIONS WHICH WE HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO SEEING IN PRAVDA AND SOME OTHER DAILIES. (RED STAR, OF COURSE, STAYS IN LINE IN CARRYING TASS NEWS STORIES ON THE SUBJECT.)
2. APRIL 24 ISSUE UNDERLINED RED STAR' S CAUTIOUS APPROACH BY FRONT-PAGING, NEXT TO PHOTO STORY ON BREZHNEV' S RECEPTION OF CODEL HARTKE, LEAD ARTICLE ON COMBATING BOURGEOIS IDEOLOGY. JUXTAPOSITION LENDS PIQUANCE TO RED STAR COMMENT THAT " ALL THE MORE TOPICAL TODAY IS LENIN' S ADMONITION TO US TO ' UNCEASINGLY STRUGGLE AGAINST ANY BOURGEOIS IDEOLOGY, IN WHATEVER FASHIONABLE AND RESPLENDENT COAT IT MAY DRESS ITSELF."
3. ARTICLE GOES ON TO WARN THAT POSITIVE MOVES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MUST NOT GIVE BIRTH TO COMPLACENCY, AND QUOTES BREZHNEV ON NEED TO STRENGTHEN IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE. AFTER PRAISING ONE LT. COLONEL FOR ORGANIZING LECTURERS

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UNMASKING THE AGGRESSIVE NATURE OF IMPERIALISM, ARTICLE LAMENTS THAT SOME OTHER MILITARY PROPAGANDISTS MERELY PASS ON A FEW FACTS, CONSIDERING IT UNNECESSARY TO DWELL ON CLASS NATURE OF DEVELOPMENTS. BASIC THRUST IS THUS THE NEED TO IMPROVE PROPAGANDA WORK.

4. EMBOFF RECENTLY PRIVATELY CHIDED A RED STAR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR, WHO PROFESSES TO BE PRO- AMERICAN, ABOUT A PARTICULARLY POLEMICAL COMMENTARY HE HAD WRITTEN (APRIL 17) ON U. S. INTERFERENCE IN LATIN AMERICA. JOURNALIST SHRUGGED, GRIMACED, AND SAID, " WHAT CAN ONE DO?" POINT SEEMED TO BE THAT HE HAD TO CONFORM TO EDITORIAL POLICY.

5. COMMENT: RED STAR CLEARLY SEEMS TO HAVE ITS OWN SPECIFIC EDITORIAL ATTITUDE TOWARD DETENTE, PROBABLY GEARED TO SPECIAL NEEDS OF MILITARY PROPAGANDA. IN THIS CONNECTION, EDITOR- IN- CHIEF MAKEYEV COMMENTED PRIVATELY SOME MONTHS AGO THAT RED STAR HAD DIFFERENT AUDIENCE AND DIFFERENCE AIMS THAN PRAVDA.

6. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DIFFERENT EDITORIAL POLICY ALSO REFLECTS SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF DETENTE POLICY FOR FUTURE MILITARY POSTURE. IT SEEMS TO US IMPOSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT BREZHNEV COULD HAVE COME ALONG THE DETENTE ROAD AS FAR AS HE HAS AGAINST CONCERTED MILITARY OPPOSITION. BUT SINCE MILITARY RESERVATIONS COULD BE SIGNIFICANT IN ANY DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC DETENTE MEASURES, IT IS WORTH KEEPING AN EYE ON THIS PROPAGANDA DICHOTOMY TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING DEEPER UNDERLYING IT THAN A MERE DIFFERENCE IN AUDIENCE. END COMMENT.
DUBS

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